

News

Macomb County
Office of Public Affairs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 22, 2006

Contact: Phil Frame
Office of Public Affairs
586-469-5125
phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov

County program helps with home rehabilitation

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Without water for seven months because their well went dry, Joseph and Claudia Boutin were in a really tough situation. Having just maxed-out their credit on a home equity loan, the Boutins could not afford to drill a new well at their Ray Township home.

“We collected rainwater,” said Claudia, 62. “We also had to haul all of our drinking water to the house.”

The Boutins finally did get relief when a friend called Joseph, 69, and told him about the Macomb “Urban County” Housing Rehabilitation Program, administered by the Department of Planning & Economic Development.

Any Macomb County resident meeting eligibility requirements may participate in the program, except for people living in Clinton Township, Roseville, St. Clair Shores, Sterling Heights or Warren, which have similar programs of their own. Manufactured housing and rental properties also are excluded from the program.

Claudia called the Planning department and found a source of interest-free loans and help with getting home repairs or replacement of items that break down.

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“Since the program began in 1983, more than 1,160 homeowners received assistance,” said Mike Rozny, program manager. “The housing rehabilitation program has provided more than \$13.3 million for home repairs for Macomb County residents who meet income and other eligibility requirements.”

Those who apply must:

- Own and occupy the home
- Have homeowners insurance, and flood insurance if the house is in a federally designated flood zone
- Be up to date with property tax payments
- Have a household income at or below federal income limits (for example, \$55,000 for a family of four)

The program offers up to \$8,000 for emergency repairs and up to \$20,000 to make homes meet federal housing quality standards and local codes. Also offered by the program are lead-based paint testing and elimination.

In addition to the money, the program also helps with filling out the application, setting up property inspections, the contractor bid process, and making sure the job is done properly and according to code.

Just two months after construction began, the Boutins were not only enjoying fresh water from their new well, but were also enjoying the other, much-needed repairs to their home including fixed faucets, a replaced shower, floor repairs, new windows and siding, and a new hot water tank.

“It’s an excellent program. I wish more people knew about it,” said Claudia. “I’m sure there are many people out there with similar problems who are too afraid or simply don’t know how to get help.”

For more information, or to apply for the Macomb County Housing Rehabilitation Program, call 586-469-5285.

[EDITOR’S NOTE: The Boutins and program staff are available for interviews. Contact 586-469-7068 to make arrangements.]

About Macomb County

Macomb County is an enriching community in Southeastern Michigan that has one of the state’s fastest rates of growth. Its 834,000 residents make it Michigan’s third-largest county, with direct access to Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay, and a host of cultural and entertainment options. Its highly skilled workforce and investment in new and expanding businesses make it open to enterprise. Active civic leadership translates into balanced budgets and Michigan’s second-lowest tax rate. An increasingly diverse population and high quality of life make Macomb County accessible to all.

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